United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• Saturday's attack against UNOSOM II personnel by Somali gunmen, killing at least 22 Pakistani peace-keepers and wounding many others, strongly condemned by Security Council; resolution reaffirms Secretary-General's authority to take all measures against those responsible.

• Prince Sihanouk says he will chair meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council on 10 June; Dutch and Pakistani UNTAC personnel injured in incidents in Preah Vihear province.

• Secretary-General, before leaving Tunisia for Paris, holds "positive and constructive" talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and meets with Tunisian President and Ministers.

• Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference hold meetings with Secretary-General and Russian Special Envoy in Paris; Lord Owen expected to address European Community Foreign Ministers in Luxembourg tomorrow.

• Environmental protection is an urgent need and continued destruction can no longer be tolerated, Secretary-General in message on World Environment Day, 5 June.

• Italy asks for inclusion of new item entitled "Observer status for Permanent Court of Arbitration in General Assembly" in provisional agenda of forty-eight session of General Assembly.

• UNICEF Executive Board elects Anna Semamba Makinda of Tanzania Chairman for 1993-1994; Executive Director says active leadership required during restructuring of Secretariat.

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The Security Council, at a formal meeting Sunday evening, strongly condemned an incident in Somalia on Saturday, 5 June, at which at least 22 Pakistani peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) were killed and many more wounded by armed Somali gunmen.

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In a resolution unanimously adopted, the Security Council said the "unprovoked attack" appeared to be part of a calculated and premeditated series of cease-fire violations to prevent UNOSOM II from carrying out its mandate. The Council reaffirmed the authority of the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures against those responsible for the armed attacks and for publicly inciting them, including their arrest and detention for prosecution, trial and punishment.

In a statement issued in Tunisia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali condemned "the treacherous act against United Nations peace-keepers who are on a mission of peace, reconciliation and reconstruction". He urged that prompt and firm action be taken against the perpetrators of the crime.

UNOSOM II took over authority from the United States-led Unified Task Force on 1 May and was expected to comprise a total of 28,000 troops. In yesterday's resolution, the Council encouraged the accelerated deployment of all UNOSOM II contingents and urged Member States to contribute, on an emergency basis, military support to enable UNOSOM II to confront and deter armed attacks in the future.

According to a United Nations spokesman today, humanitarian activities in Somalia have been disrupted due to widespread civil disturbances and attacks in the cities. Following discussions with relief agencies, non-governmental organizations and others, a decision was made to relocate non-essential staff from Mogadishu to Nairobi, he said.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Admiral Jonathan T. Howe, said that an investigation of the incident was underway, the spokesman said.

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Prince Norodom Sihanouk has informed the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, that he will chair a meeting of the country's Supreme National Council on 10 June. Prince Sihanouk had said on Friday that he was unable to form and preside over a Supreme National Council with Prince Ranariddh [his son] and Mr. Hun Sen as vice-presidents.

There were several violent incidents in Preah Vihear province over the weekend, according to a United Nations spokesman. Two vehicles driven by United Nations Military Observers were damaged by mines on Saturday, and a Dutch mine clearer from the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was injured by a mine on Sunday. The same day, a Pakistani platoon from UNTAC was attacked by 150 to 200 soliders believed to be from the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) and two Pakistanis were injured.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, before leaving Tunisia for Paris, met yesterday in Tunis with Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), for what both sides described as "positive and

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constructive" talks. The Secretary-General underlined the importance of the Middle East peace talks and said his Special Representative Chinmaya Gharekhan was prepared to offer the services of the United Nations if requested by the parties. Mr. Arafat asked for help in alleviating the economic plight of Palestinians living in the occupied territories through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

On Saturday, the Secretary-General held talks with the President, and Foreign and Defense Ministers of Tunisia, and expressed thanks for that country's contribution to United Nations peace-keeping operations. Tunisia, which has 12 civilian police serving in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPRPFOR) has agreed in principle to send military forces to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Discussions also dealt with the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna and subjects to be raised at the summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Cairo, including the situations in Mozambique, Angola, Rwanda, Liberia and Somalia.

Before leaving Tunis for Paris, the Secretary-General said he would meet with the Libyan leader during the OAU summit regarding United Nations sanctions against Libya.

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Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, held in-depth consultations with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in Paris today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Marrack Goulding was also present. The Co-Chairmen then met with Vitali Churkin, the Russian Federation's Special Envoy.

Lord Owen will leave Paris tonight for Luxembourg to attend a meeting of the European Community Council of Foreign Ministers tomorrow. He is expected to address the meeting's morning session. In that connection, he met with the Foreign Minister of the United Kingdom in London last night and with the Foreign Minister of France in Paris today.

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Environmental protection was an urgent need, and continued destruction could no longer be tolerated, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a message on World Environment Day, 5 June. Last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) had reached a unique consensus in "Agenda 21", which outlined a plan for environmentally sound and sustainable development, he said.

Sustainable development meant finding and using resources that were renewable, and carefully managing those that were not, according to the Secretary-General. It meant choosing products that do not damage the environment, respecting biological diversity in agriculture and avoiding harmful chemicals. It also meant tackling poverty and using preventive diplomacy to avoid the waste and destruction caused by war.

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Environmental challenges were increasingly being measured in global rather than in national terms, the Secretary-General noted. Environmental destruction in one country, such as the depletion of the ozone layer and the destruction of forests, affected the health of the entire planet, he pointed out.

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Italy has asked for the inclusion of an item entitled "Observer status for the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the General Assembly" in the provisional agenda of the forty-eight session of the General Assembly.

In a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 2 June, the Italian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Francesco Paolo Fulci, wrote that the States parties to the Hague Conventions for the pacific settlement of international disputes felt that the creation of a permanent institutional relation between the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the United Nations would enable both organizations to strengthen the existing links.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration, which was established in 1899 by the First Hague Convention for the pacific settlement of international disputes and has its seat in the Peace Palace in the Hague, is the oldest governmental institution in existence that is dedicated to the task of resolving disputes between States.

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The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today elected Anna Semamba Makinda of Tanzania as its Chairman for 1993-1994. Most of the Board's officers were also elected at the organizational meeting.

UNICEF Executive Director James Grant said the new Board would have to provide active leadership in the coming year as UNICEF would be undergoing major changes because of the restructuring of the Secretariat. Putting children first must continue to be a priority and a challenge, he added.

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